



# Safeguarding Commitment Statement

The Diocese of Geraldton is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all its members, leaders, and especially its children and adults at risk. The care, safety and welfare of children and adults is a collective responsibility, embedded in robust policies and practices of the diocese which reflect its zero tolerance to abuse.

We will:

- strive to be an open and inclusive Church where all members including children, adults, families, Church workers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, the culturally and/or linguistically diverse, those who are of diverse sexuality and those with a disability or additional needs, are welcome and participate fully;
- strive to be a Church where children and adults are fully engaged and have every opportunity to be heard, flourish and grow;
- strive to be a safe place by removing any barriers that will either harm or hinder children and adults;
- strive to ensure that every person engaged and working in the Church actively promotes the inherent dignity of all people by upholding their fundamental right to be included, respected and nurtured in a safe environment;
- seek to maintain high ethical standards in all decisions, actions and programs;
- strive to work in accordance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) and the Professional Standards reporting obligations through the implementation of The Safeguarding Policy;
- abide by Federal and State statutory legislation pertaining to the Safeguarding of children and adults at risk.

Creating a safe Church is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by all leaders, clergy, Church workers and the wider Church community including parents, carers, and families. The Diocese is committed to making this possible through collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across legislation, policies, procedures, and practices.

